(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers. The important steps taken are briefly listed:

A. Short Term Measures

1. **Fiscal Measures**

(i) Reducing import duties to zero - for wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize (under TRQ of 5 lakh tonnes per annum, beyond which 15% duty will apply).

2. **Administrative Measures**

(i) Export of wheat and wheat products (atta, maida and suji) was permitted after 15th May 2009, with a cap of 2 million tonnes in 2009-10.

(ii) Export not more than 20 lakh tonnes of rice, on diplomatic basis through the MEA to friendly countries in KMS 2008-09.

(iii) Banning export of non-basmati rice, wheat and pulses (except kabuli chana).

(iv) Imposition of stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses.

(v) The periodic enhancements in MSP- currently Rs. 1080 per quintal for wheat, Rs.850 per quintal for common rice and Rs.880 per quintal for Grade A rice, to maximize procurement of wheat and rice, as well as give incentive to higher production.

(vi) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg. for AAY) and wheat (at Rs.4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs.2 per kg for AAY).

(vii) To augment availability of pulses, the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED were permitted to import and sell pulses under a scheme and losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.

(viii) Distribution of imported pulses to State Governments at a subsidy of Rs.10/- per kg.

(ix) Futures trading in Rice, Wheat, Urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 continued during the year 2008-09.

B. Medium Term Measures:

In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

Spurt in prices of pulses

†769.MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a spurt in prices of pulses particularly Toor Dal, in the last five months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to check the price rise and the time by when effects of these measures would be visible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam, Government is aware that there has been a spurt in prices of pulses particularly Tur Dal, in the last five months in some centres, while they have remained steady at 9 centres. Prices of pulses are governed by exogenous factors such as weather, area, production, productivity, demand freight cost and international prices of pulses. As per the Third Advance estimates for 2008-09 released in May 2009, tur production is estimated at 2.37million tonnes as against 3.08 million tonnes for 2007-08. Areas under kharif tur is marginally lower by 0.5% to 3.36 million ha as on 24.10.08, as compared to 3.85 million ha by this time last year. International prices of tur have doubled during the last five months. Demand for pulses increased from 16.77 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 17.51 million tonnes in 2008-09 as estimated by Working Group on 'Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections and Agricultural Statistics' constituted by the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012).

(c) The various measures taken by Government to check the price rise of pulses is as under:-

(i) Reducing import duties to zero for pulses.

(ii) Banning export of pulses (except kabuli chana).

(iii) Imposition of stock limit orders.

(iv) To augment availability of pulses, the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED were permitted to import and sell pulses under a scheme and losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.

(v) Distribution of imported pulses to State Governments at a subsidy of Rs.10/- per kg.

(vi) In the medium term, Government has taken initiatives such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPAM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to improve production and productivity in agriculture.

As a result of these measures, the import of pulses has increased from 2.49 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 2.95 million tonnes in 2007-08. During the current year (up to April-February) the imports of pulses is estimated at 2.15 million tonnes(provisional). Prices of tur are stabilizing in many centers for the past two months. These measures have been able to moderate price rise of pulses in the absence of which price rise would have been much higher.